

Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Cox Conference Room

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Type of Meeting: Quarterly Meeting

Chairperson: Bill B. Lefler

Board Members Present:

Gen. (Ret.) Bill B. Lefler, DDS, FACP, Chairman

Omar Atiq, M.D.

Drew Kumpuris, M.D.

Joni Jones (designee for John Selig)

Anthony Fletcher, M.D.

Karen Wheeler, Ph.D. (designee for Linda Beene, Ed.D.)

Jennifer Dillaha, M.D. (designee for Paul Halverson, DrPH)

Board Members Absent:

John Ahlen, Ph.D.

Dee Cox (designee for Ken James, Ed. D.)

Staff Present:

Karen Elrod

Invited Guests:

Beck Hall, Delta AHEC

Dr. Claudia Beverly, COA

Robin McAtee, COA

Judy Smith, AMHC

Suzanne McCarthy, ACHI

Warren Readnour, AG's Office

Rebecca Wright, Psychology Board

Dr. Larry Cornett, ABI

Leslie Humphries, ABI

Jim Raczynski, COPH

Willa Sanders, COPH

Linda Delaney, UAMS

I. Call to order

General Lefler

General Lefler called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He welcomed Dr. Drew Kumpuris, who has been appointed by the Speaker of the House and observers. General Lefler announced Chiquita Munir's resignation. We will be accepting résumés for the director's position.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

General Lefler

Minutes of the July 19, 2006 meeting were reviewed by Commissioners.

General Lefler entertains a motion to vote.

Motion to Approve: Omar Atiq, M.D.

Seconded by: Jennifer Dillaha, M.D.

Minutes from July 19, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. Financial Update

Karen Elrod

Karen Elrod: The budget for FY07 was \$634,117. Our year to date expenditures are \$144,312. With our commitment to RAND of \$289,995 leaves a remaining budget of \$488,800 for this year, which can be carried over.

The budget hearings were held on November 14th and the prospective budget was accepted as it was reviewed. There is a request to the Joint Budget Committee asking for an addition staff person to process grants and an increase in salary for the executive director's position from a grade 22 to a grade 24; this will provide the Commission the ability to afford a more qualified executive director. Also requested is an increase in the professional fees line from \$300,000 to \$500,000. In our grant line the Commission would like to see an increase from \$200,000 to \$500,000 next FY and \$650,000 the following year.

With the Commissions appropriation for two staff positions it is difficult to manage the grants. In FY03-04 we gave out grants worth \$353,678 to 22 counties. FY 04-05 the Commission gave out grants of \$487,000 to 28 counties. In FY05-06 the Commission funded two grants. The Commission does not have adequate staff to monitor the grant process.

Questions

Jennifer Dillaha: I know one of the issues in overseeing the grants is that there is only a small amount to fund the grant oversight. Were we able to address that?

General Lefler: The Commission was only able to fund just a few grants this year. I think we are going to be able to reinstate our grant program the way we are supposed to do it by the law if we get the grants manager position that is being requested.

Omar Atiq: In the last five years of the Commission I think we were very clear that we need more help. Not two people but three. We also need more travel expenses to do our job right.

General Lefler entertains a motion to vote to accept the budget.

Motion to Approve: Omar Atiq, M.D.

Seconded by: Jennifer Dillaha, M.D.

Budget was unanimously approved.

General Lefler: We need a temporary hire for 2 days a week to help Karen out until our new Executive Director is hired. Is that ok with everyone?

Motion to Approve: Jennifer Dillaha

Seconded by: Joni Jones

Motion unanimously approved.

General Lefler: Tomorrow (11/16/06), Jim Kahn is coming to present the 2006 biennial Report to the Public Health and Welfare and Labor Committee.

General Lefler: We have to market the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission. We should take what we have done and brag about it. We had a luncheon on September 28, 2006 to celebrate five years of progress and it went very well. We have a PowerPoint presentation of the luncheon; this will be part of the marketing. The marketing effort has to be started and continued with the new legislators. As soon as we can, we need to make appointments with various legislators to tell them our story. The ATSC is recognized throughout the State as one of the leaders in prevention and promotional weapons. We are also recognized as using our Tobacco funds the way they should be used. One of our major efforts will

be to continue the programs the way we have been. We all get opportunities to speak to various people and promote the ATSC; I think we have to continue to do that.

Karen Wheeler: In thinking about the upcoming session and budget issues, I would like for the commission to be thoughtful about budget decisions. What is our agenda for the session and what are we trying to achieve, if it is more funding, more funding for what?

Jennifer Dillaha: A couple of things on my mind, one is the communicating the content of the RAND report to the new legislators. The report is overwhelming and I know that the new legislators have so much coming at them so fast that we need something a little more “bite” sized. How to get to that is going to be important. My experience in some conversations with legislators who have received the previous report is that they didn’t know they had received it. I am wondering what we can do to connect with the information.

The other thing that we all need to be aware of is that one of the components of the funds that comes to the Division of Health for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation has requirements placed on top of it to fund things other than tobacco related. The funds are used for obesity programs, trails for Arkansas department of parks and tourism, breast care.

Jennifer Dillaha: We are following the requirements of the law but I think that the initial intent was for the money to be used for tobacco related programs. I don’t know if we can address that, but we should be aware of that. This could happen to any program.

General Lefler: The thing I do not want to see is for the Legislature to take the money and use it for roads or other things.

Jennifer Dillaha: In a sense, it is already happening because the program money is being used for buildings and other things.

General Lefler: I know you let them know about it. I’ve heard you do it and you do it very well.

General Lefler: Anyone have anything to add? I toured Arkansas State University and I saw the facility over there, it is unbelievable. The Bio-Science Institute is wonderful, there had been a lack of research coming out of Arkansas State and now they have attracted scientists from all over the place. The Tobacco Settlement Commission should be proud, the programs themselves have been unbelievable, the College of Public Health is phenomenal, what you all are doing is great.

General Lefler: Anything from anyone else?

Camille Jones: Minority Health Commission, passed out a response to RAND recommendations.

Motion to adjourn: Karen Wheeler

Seconded by: Drew Kumpuris

Motion passed unanimously